

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
KAHNE LOFTUS

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2023

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hardwork of Kahne Loftus, an extraordinary young citizen in Washington State who has worked to honor the sacrifices made by members of the nation's armed forces.

Kahne, a 17-year-old from Rainier Washington, has sent collected items and care packages to several hundred service members over the last 5 years. Kahne's humility and initiative are truly admirable, especially because he started this amazing service to cope with the loss of a family member.

In October 2016, Kahne's uncle and a man with a deep influence on Kahne's life, Derek Harris, passed away unexpectedly in his sleep. The loss of his uncle Derek was a significant challenge for Kahne as he found himself confronted by the death of someone close to him for the first time. Struck by the difficulty of watching her son grieve, Kahne's mother contacted a family friend in the armed forces who in turn connected Kahne with a soldier named Chad who was stationed in Afghanistan. The 2 began to write letters to each other, which helped Kahne heal from the loss of his uncle Derek.

Through this correspondence, Kahne learned more about the military and life as a service member overseas. He was surprised to learn that service members stationed abroad are unable to travel home and visit loved ones over the holidays. Kahne was immediately motivated to act and proceeded to collect donations and gather items that could be sent to our nations heroes. Since starting Kahne's Kare Packages in 2017, Kahne has sent collected items and care packages to over 800 service members overseas. Last year alone, 108 soldiers, airmen 4 K-9 working dogs and their handlers received care packages. To fund the cost of the shipping for his packages, his largest cost, he sells wood-working projects, hosts fundraisers, and gathers donations from members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, Kahne Loftus exemplifies deep humility, hard work, and selfless service to others. Kahne is an exemplary resident of Washington's South Sound and serves as a reminder that each of us can contribute to the recognition of our men and women in the Armed Forces. I am proud and honored to recognize Kahne Loftus.

HONORING DR. TONY UBALDE ON
HIS 12 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Tony Ubalde upon his retirement from the Vallejo City Unified School District Board of Education. Throughout Dr. Ubalde's 12 years of service, he advocated for Vallejo students and worked tirelessly to improve his community's education system.

Dr. Ubalde first joined the Board of Education in 2011 and has since served 3 terms, during which he was instrumental in successfully raising the high school graduation rate and fostering a safer environment in Vallejo schools. Dr. Ubalde's dedication to the youth of Vallejo is evident through his efforts to ensure all students in his community can achieve their full potential.

Throughout his twelve-year tenure on the Board of Education, Dr. Ubalde ushered the Vallejo City Unified School District into a new era of financial stability. In addition to collaborating with his fellow Trustees, superintendents, and community members to establish a strong financial foundation for Vallejo's education system, Dr. Ubalde was also vital in instituting an independent Citizens Fiscal Audit Committee. Focused on promoting transparency and financial accountability, this committee directly ensures that taxpayer dollars are used efficiently, prioritizing Vallejo residents.

In addition to his crucial contributions on the Board of Education, Dr. Ubalde also exemplifies the spirit of leadership in all areas of his life. Not only has he previously been on the Board of Trustees at Solano Community College, but he is also a prominent member of the California Board Association, having served on their Board of Directors since 2014. Dr. Ubalde's indispensable leadership has played a vital role in modernizing Vallejo's education system.

Dr. Ubalde's advocacy as a board member of the Filipino Community of Solano County, his selfless service in the U.S. Air Force Reserves, and his compassionate guidance as a former pastor clearly demonstrate that his work to improve the Vallejo community expands beyond his position on the Board of Education. Dr. Ubalde's devotion to Vallejo has undeniably improved his community.

While his presence on the Board of Education will surely be missed, Dr. Ubalde's 12 years of service to the residents of Vallejo have left a lasting legacy and significantly enhanced the lives of the students and teachers in his community. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Dr. Ubalde for his public service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 31 (H.R. 22).

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
JEREMY CATOB

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2023

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional member of the Army National Guard. I would like to recognize Major Jeremy Catob's distinguished service and dedication to enhancing the relationship between the National Guard and Congress as a Legislative Liaison.

MAJ Catob enlisted into the Florida Army National Guard on 4 June 2008 where he served in the Simultaneous Membership Program and trained with the 20th Special Forces Group as an attachment. He earned his commission as an Infantry Officer and graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate from the University of Florida on 29 April 2011. He has served 14 years in both the Georgia, and the Washington National Guard in a broad range of drill status and active duty assignments, including attending numerous technical schools, eXportable Combat Training Capability rotations, and led a joint US-Canadian Platoon in Operation Stalwart Guardian. While serving in the Washington Army National Guard, MAJ Catob supported the 81st Brigade Combat Team transforming from an Armor Brigade to a Stryker Brigade, and supported the initial COVID-19/Civil Unrest response teams in 2019. It was this experience that made MAJ Jeremy Catob the perfect fit to serve as a legislative liaison officer for the National Guard Bureau for the past 18 months on Capitol Hill.

Jeremy served as a legislative liaison officer from August 2021 through January 2023, skillfully performing his duties throughout. MAJ Catob shaped numerous engagements between Congress and National Guard senior leaders. He served as the primary handler for all Congressional Engagements related to Military Construction (MILCON) issues, resulting in millions of dollars earmarked for National Guard project's planning and design, construction, and the successful reprogramming of over \$400 million from Fiscal Year 2018 supplemental funding. Jeremy was also able to facilitate a Congressional education series for the Military Construction process with both chambers' subcommittees on MILCON appropriations. His legislative knowledge and relationships established within Congress aided in the development of several Congressional Objectives and legislative proposals that gained

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favor from Congressional staff. MAJ Catob worked to impact Incentive Pay Parity in the NDAA 2022, the improvement to the Federal Recognition process for National Guard Officers in NDAA 2023, and the proposal for State Active Duty reimbursements for the use of federal equipment.

After concluding this challenging assignment, MAJ Catob will deploy to CENTCOM/Asia for a 6 month tour supporting the J3. In closing, I express my gratitude and appreciation to MAJ Jeremy Catob for his excellent support in furtherance of National Guard missions and my appreciation to his supportive

wife, Mrs. Erin Catob and children Kennedy and Carter. His presence will leave a lasting impression within the NGB–LL community and Capitol Hill for years to come. I wish this National Guard family all the best in their next chapter of service to our Nation.